

Editorial

Republican witch hunt burns Ferraro, not adviser

As soon as Walter Mondale named Rep. Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate, Republican campaign rats scurried to the nearest public and private file cabinets to dig the "dirt" that is hiding the issues in this presidential campaign.

Ferraro's supposedly limited political experience (six years as a member of the House of Representatives) makes conservatives begin chortling that Mondale chose the wrong woman.

Nevertheless, Ferraro still has been an active and effective representative and has been elected three times by a conservative Congressional district of New York City. Even so, Ferraro and her husband can't buy groceries without

first holding a press conference to explain the action.

On the other side of the race, another woman, much less qualified than Ferraro, is going about the business of deciding the future of the country without any interference from the press or public opinion.

Meet Phyllis Schlafly, author, lawyer, housewife, mother and one of President Reagan's closest advisers on foreign policy.

"Nuclear weapons in the hands of the United States are the greatest instruments for peace man has ever devised," Schlafly claims.

This frighteningly simple view of world politics pervades the Republican party's platform. Not surprisingly, Schlafly headed the

foreign policy subcommittee of the Republican Platform Committee at the party's convention in Dallas.

Her first appointment by Reagan was to the President's Defense Policy Advisory Group when he was running for President in 1980. That group disbanded in 1981, but not before it solidified the President's "Build now, talk never" foreign policy.

Schlafly's qualification is that she has written books on defense policy written from the comfy confines of her Alton, Ill., home. She has never been elected to any office by her peers. Reagan still claims, however, that Schlafly's views (an anti-feminist strongly opposing abortion and the ERA)

are typical of most women in this country.

Her simplistic views are not clouded by the reality of political haggling and the intricacies of negotiation. Therefore she is the perfect adviser for the simplest president since Theodore Roosevelt.

"We could have taken over any country in the world without any risk to ourselves, and we didn't do it," Schlafly said. "But, of course, it's different now that the Russians have them. It's like a gun. In the hands of a policeman, a gun is good. In the hands of a criminal, a gun is evil. The Russians have made the bomb evil."

We all know that policemen are never corrupt, right? And it seems

we've heard some rhetoric from the president about evil empires before.

Feel worse for the women of Illinois. Schlafly is a member of that state's Commission on the Status of Women.

Walter Mondale originally wanted only to choose a strong running mate, one who would both excite the American people and provide strong leadership in the Senate and the Blair House if Mondale is elected.

What he started was a witch hunt in which both the media and the Republican party have found the wrong witch.

Jeff Browne
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter



Letters

Officer helps cut through bureaucracy

My many thanks go out to the UNL police and Lt. Al Broadstone. Broadstone helped an awkward, inept, bumbling person; myself. Two weeks ago, I deftly dropped my bike key down the heating grate by Oldfather Hall. With my bike locked and my key sunken, I harked Broadstone.

Broadstone patiently called his dispatcher and told him about the situation. The dispatcher said to call grounds; grounds said to

call the plant; the plant had him call the baseball field; the baseball coordinator said, "What?"

Broadstone patiently weaved through the web of bureaucracy. He went over and just pulled up the grating and told me to go down and get that key. Thanks, Al Broadstone.

Jim Perry
Graduate student
Political Science

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan

retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Eliminating useless waste best way to curb deficit

WASHINGTON — We are hearing a lot of political bombast this presidential-election year about the soaring national debt and how to reduce it. Walter Mondale says he's going to bite the bullet and raise taxes. Ronald Reagan says he'll spare the taxpayers such pain and instead curb the deficit by reducing expenditures.

We believe that neither major candidate is giving enough attention to the most obvious way of relieving the taxpayers' burden: cutting waste and fraud.

Jack Anderson and Joseph Spear

Consider a couple of incidents that occurred in just one, relatively small arm of the federal bureaucracy, the Department of Energy:

Officials at the energy agency recently spent more than \$500,000 for a graphics facility that is both unneeded and badly designed.

The IG noted that five darkrooms were proposed, though only one photographer was employed in the office.

"The project will also include room for 30 artists; there are now eight artists assigned," the IG pointed out in a memo obtained by our associate John Dillon. "Considering the above...it would appear that the justification of such expenditures is questionable."

The IG's warning fell on deaf ears. The graphics facility was built for \$490,000, with an additional \$73,000 in design costs.

Another IG memo last June listed several construction flaws, including improper sinks, paint, drains, lighting, electrical systems, air conditioning and fire alarms. Not only was the wrong kind of lighting installed in the darkrooms, but the rooms were not "light-tight."

The graphics fiasco falls under the jurisdiction of William Heffelfinger, the Energy Department's director of administration. We have reported before on Heffelfinger's antics, including his failure to do anything about a print shop employee who had been getting kickbacks for funneling Energy Department business to a private printing company where he was moonlighting.

The two officials in charge of the graphics office, Gene

Fleming and Don Hunt, are said by our sources to have known that the new graphics facility was a white elephant, yet allowed construction to go ahead. Neither Fleming nor Heffelfinger returned calls for comment. Hunt hung up when asked about the new graphics shop.

An Energy Department spokesman said the General Services Administration handled the design and engineering work — not the Department of Energy — and said the designers "inadvertently" left out the light-tight seals for the darkrooms. Though he conceded that there are five darkrooms for one photographer, he claimed that 14 graphic artists — not eight, as the IG charged — are using the new space. That's still fewer than half the number the facility was built for.

In the second incident, a major Energy Department contractor charged the government \$30,000 for a "nuclear legislative handbook" that consisted of publicly available photocopied material arranged in a looseleaf binder. Investigators for the House subcommittee on energy conservation and power said the material copied for the handbook included profiles of lawmakers, a digest of nuclear energy legislation and a compilation of legislators' voting records on nuclear issues.

But the profiles were lifted whole from a book published by the Congressional Quarterly; the legislative digest was available free from the subcommittee itself; and the voting records could have been obtained easily from the Energy Department's own legislative liaison office.

What really appalled the investigators was that only six copies of the looseleaf handbook were produced over a three-year period — at \$5,000 each, one of the most expensive photocopying jobs in history.

In an effort to curb these sorts of extravagances, we recently joined ranks with Peter Grace, head of a presidential commission that has been investigating government waste. Former Treasury Secretary William Simon, former Sen. George McGovern and others have also joined to form a bipartisan coalition called Citizens Against Waste. We invite all Americans to sign the following declaration:

"As the true owners of the U.S. government, we protest the appalling waste of our money by those we entrust to spend it. We demand action, not discussion, to stop the excessive and unnecessary squandering of government funds for foolish projects, wasteful programs and ineffi-

cient operations. We want corrective measures taken against those in Congress and the federal bureaucracy who irresponsibly authorize and misspend our tax dollars."

Sign your name to this protest, and collect the signatures of your friends and neighbors (include addresses for verification).

Mail the declarations to: Citizens Against Waste, P.O. Box 1000, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044. We will deliver the signed statements to the next president and new congressional leaders in January.

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